

**Vocabulary in Context**

A **biome** is an area where plants and animals live. Different plants and animals live in different biomes. Some live in dry **grasslands**. Others live in **deserts**. Some live in the cold **tundra** or **taiga**. Others live in wet **rain forests**. Many live in **deciduous forests**, where there are four **seasons**. Each of these large areas is a **biome**. The living and nonliving parts of a biome form an **ecosystem**. Plants and animals are living things. Nonliving things include rocks, water, and soil. An ecosystem can be large or small.

Living things in ecosystems are **divided** into smaller units. Each kind of living thing is called a **species**. All the members of a species living in an area form a **population**. Two or more populations of living things from the same area form a **community**.

**Reading Strategy**

**Paraphrase**

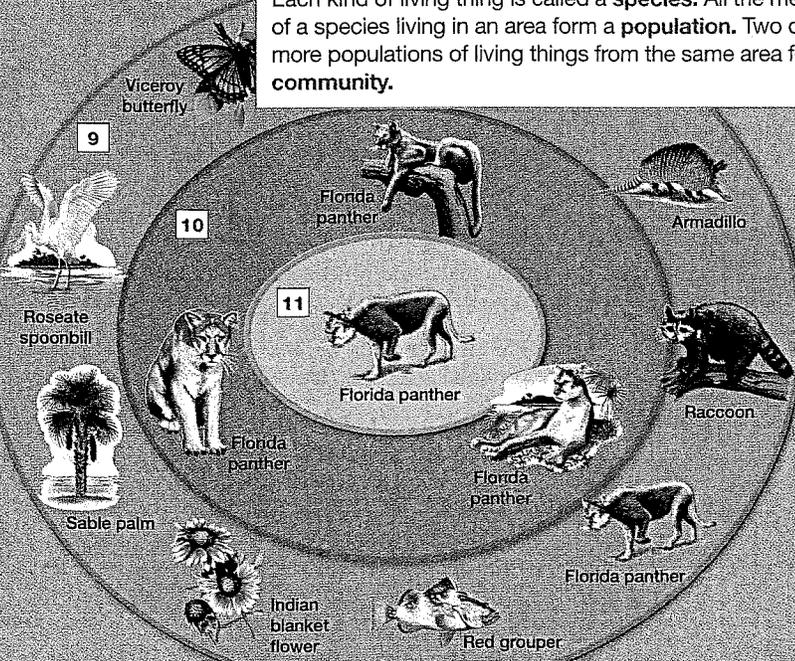
Paraphrase the first paragraph of the **Vocabulary in Context** box.

KEY

9 community

10 population

11 species



**Check Your Understanding**

1. Look at the pictures. What do all the Florida panthers in the picture form?
2. What things form an ecosystem?
3. Where do plants and animals live?

**Critical Thinking** Applying Information

4. What are some of the nonliving parts of a park ecosystem?

**Reading Check**

1. **Recall facts** How many **seasons** are there in a deciduous forest?
2. **Recall facts** What forms a community?
3. **Analyze** What kind of biome would an elephant live in? A polar bear? A camel?

MILESTONES (A)

UNIT 6: Belonging

CHAPTER 1

Reading 2

Content: SCIENCE

"Biomes and Ecosystems"